



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/459,189	12/10/1999	Tim Haynes	4173/2	9761

29858 7590 01/13/2004

BROWN, RAYSMAN, MILLSTEIN, FELDER & STEINER LLP
900 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

EXAMINER

KAPADIA, MILAN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2144

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2004

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/459,189

Applicant(s)

HAYNES ET AL.

Examiner

Milan S Kapadia

Art Unit

2144

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Milan S Kapadia.

(3)_____.

(2) Mathew Marquardt (Reg. NO. 40,997).

(4)_____.

Date of Interview: 08 January 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: Claim 1 in particular and all of record in general.

Identification of prior art discussed: U-Haul (as cited in the prior office Action) and Danford-Klein et al. (6,041,318).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant's representative discussed features of Applicant's invention that was believed not to be taught by the applied prior art. In particular, Applicant discuss features of the claims "expertise-based guidance" that Applicant believed distinguished the claimed invention over the prior art. The Examiner discussed the Examiner's interpretations of the applied prior art. In particular, the Examiner pointed to page 8 of the U-Haul reference as teaching the recited feature. The Applicant further suggested additional claim language that the Applicant believed would distinguish the invention over the applied prior art. Specifically, the Applicant presented language that would suggest possible towing accessories based on user input relating to type of vehicle to be towed, including the year and make of the vehicle. The Examiner suggested that the amendments appeared to distinguish over the applied prior art but the Examiner will re-consider the applied prior art in view of Applicant's formal amendments..